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Natural Resources Task Force

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The operative principle of the **Natural Resources** Task Force is free market environmentalism. There is a mutually beneficial dynamic between a robust economy and a healthy environment. Natural resources are generally resilient and respond positively to wise management. Unleashing the creative powers of the free market produces innovative technology and promises new opportunities for environmental stewardship. The Task Force pursues policies that take advantage of the positive forces of the free market to enhance the quality of our natural resources for the benefit of human health and environmental integrity.

The Natural Resources Task Force has developed two policy projects that incorporate the benefits of sound science and innovative technology. The "Energy Sustainability for the 21st Century" policy initiative examines the role fuel supply diversity in energy security, climate change regulation, and electricity reliability. The mission of the project is to determine the best free market approach for energy development, production, and distribution to enhance our national economy and independence. The "Environmental Health Initiative" has been instrumental in demonstrating that sound science based on rigorous peer review will produce more effective public policy that reduces harm to human health and promotes environmental stewardship.

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RECENT PERIODICALS:

- [Download "Energy, Environment, and Economics: A Guide for State Legislators"](#) (PDF 794KB) - (Members Only) Reporters please send an email to [ALEC](#), or call (202) 466 3800, ext. 292.
- [Download State Factor: Unintended Consequences: Northeastern State Proposals to Limit Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#) (PDF 380KB)
- [Download State Factor: Global Warming and the Kyoto Protocol: Paper Tiger, Economic Dragon](#) (PDF 252KB)
- [Download State Factor: Why States Should Reject Multi-"Pollutant" Regulation of Carbon Dioxide](#) (PDF 179KB)
- [Download State Factor: Get Your Money for Nothing and Your Credits for Free](#) (PDF 57.3KB)
- [Download State Factor: Is There Legal Authority to Award Regulatory Credits for Greenhouse Gas Reductions?](#) (PDF 60.6KB)
- [Download State Factor: The Anti-Energy Manifesto of the State Attorneys General](#) (PDF 100KB)

TASK FORCE CHAIRS:

Georgia Senator Joey Brush
Public Sector Chair

Greg Merrill, Chlorine Chemistry Council
Private Sector Chair

[Kelli Kay](#)
Task Force Director

'SONS-OF-KYOTO': GREENHOUSE GAS LEGISLATION IN THE STATES *States React to the Hysteria of Global Warming*

Although the United Nation's Kyoto Protocol Treaty was rejected by the U.S. Senate and two administrations, greenhouse gas regulation has proliferated in the states at an

alarming rate. In the 2001-2002 general sessions, 66 bills were introduced in 24 states. During the 2003 general session, over 90 bills were introduced in 27 states. In 2004, 109 bills were introduced in 27 states. Regardless of the scientific uncertainty and the economic costs, there is an orchestrated movement to force the American public to bear the costs of implementing Kyoto-like regulation and develop a carbon cap-and-trade system. Ultimately, this system will create a national energy tax in the short term and has implications that may significantly harm free trade in the future.

- ▶ [Read Press Release](#)
- ▶ [View State Legislation to Regulate Greenhouse Gases](#)
- ▶ [Download Full Report: Sons of Kyoto: Greenhouse Gas Regulation in the States \(PDF/266KB\)](#)
- ▶ To order a hard copy of the report please contact [ALEC](#) at 202.466.3800.

RELATED ARTICLES:

Commentary: "Skewed Road Map to Kyoto"

By Duane Parde
The Washington Times, June 20, 2003

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Attorneys General in Three States Sue EPA in Attempt to Regulate CO2

Orchestrated Efforts Are Being Made to Force Kyoto Type Regulation
June 5, 2003

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ALEC OFFERS LEGISLATION TO FIGHT DOMESTIC TERROR BY ANIMAL RIGHTS AND ECO-EXTREMIST GROUPS

Let's Call a Terrorist, a Terrorist

Environmental and animal rights groups who commit acts of terror are now targets themselves of a new model bill offered by the bipartisan American Legislative Exchange Council. *The Animal and Ecological Terrorism Act (AETA)* creates penalties for persons encouraging, financing, assisting or engaged in acts of animal and ecological terrorism.

- ▶ [Read Full Press Release](#)
- ▶ [Download Report \(PDF/110KB\)](#)

TASK FORCE MEETINGS

- ▶ *Washington, DC, December 4, 2004* (2004 States and Nation Policy Summit)

The Natural Resources Task Force met on December 4th, in conjunction with the States and Nation Policy Summit in Washington, DC. Task Force members heard presentations on air quality improvements, initiatives to regulate greenhouse gases in northeastern states, and state efforts to mandate renewable energy portfolio standards. Additional presentations included the use of eminent domain in the states and an update on the affect of the EPA's re-assessment of dioxin regulation on the states. The Task Force passed the State-Based Healthy Forest Plan, an Act Protecting Property Rights to Facilitate Species Conservation, and a Resolution Encouraging Development of Liquefied Natural Gas. Finally, the Natural Resources Task Force gave outgoing Chairman Senator Joey Brush, GA a round of applause and an award for his outstanding leadership during his tenure at ALEC.

- ▶ *Seattle, WA, July 30, 2004* (2004 Annual Meeting)

On July 30th, the Natural Resources Task Force met in Seattle. Gene Trisko with the Center for Energy and Economic Development started things off with a presentation on the New England Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. This initiative is an attempt to put an agreement between the Canadian Northeast Premieres and the New England Governors into state regulation.

Our private sector chairman, Greg Merrill, a representative of the Chlorine Chemistry Council, gave a briefing on California's bio-monitoring initiative. Bill Rozett, American Petroleum Institute, provided an overview on Gasoline Prices in the United States. Task Force members then heard from Alex de Alvarez, Director of the Office of Energy Assurance, Dept. of Energy, who addressed electricity reliability and the New England Blackout of 2003. The agriculture subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Sandy Griener, hosted a meeting with Dept. of Agriculture Undersecretary Bill Hawks who provided a discussion on agriculture policies, invasive species, and inspection initiatives at USDA.

Rep. John Picusopo and Bill Rozett, API, received the Natural Resources Task Force Member of the Year award for their hard work in advancing the free market approach to environmental stewardship. The Natural Resources Task Force attended workshops on Mercury, Climate Change, and Economics of Air Quality regulations.

- ▶ *Austin, TX, May 1, 2004* (2004 Spring Task Force Summit)

The Natural Resources Task Force had a productive meeting. The Task Force voted

unanimously to change its title to the Natural Resources Task Force. The Energy Subcommittee met under the leadership of Rep. Mary Ann Middaugh, MI, and held a mock auction to demonstrate how electricity markets work. Lynn Keisling of the Institute for Research in Experimental Economics directed the exercise. The task force reviewed and approved a set of transmission principles as a basis for future policy recommendations. Sterling Burnett of the National Center for Policy Analysis gave a presentation on wind power. Model resolutions supporting biotechnology markets at the local level and requesting EPA to provide an expeditious review of noxious weed control measures were approved.

► *Scottsdale, AZ, December 12, 2003* (2003 States and Nation Policy Summit)

The EENRA Task Force heard presentations on eco-terrorism, invasive weeds, new initiatives at the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Energy. The Energy Subcommittee met to begin to develop a list of transmission infrastructure principles. Workshops at SNPS included presentations on natural gas markets and the economic impact of climate change policies. EENRA Task Force Director Sandy Liddy Bourne testified before a special Senate committee in Georgia on upholding the need for property rights when local governments and utilities are siting transmission lines.

► *Washington, DC, August 1, 2003* (2003 Annual Meeting)

The Energy, Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (EENRA) Task Force heard presentations on the Endangered Species Act by Myron Ebell, CEI and a representative from the Fish and Wildlife Division of the Department of Interior. Joe Bast, Heartland Institute, outlined his study on carbon sequestration in agriculture. Rob Sexton, from the Sportsman Alliance, gave an update on eco-terrorism, and Tom Brown, with API, sponsored a presentation on gasoline pricing. In addition, three model bills were passed including a Resolution Concerning Legislative Approval of Proposals and Regulations for Controlling Greenhouse Gas Emissions Associated with Global Climate Change, a Resolution on Federal Multi-Emission Reduction Legislation, and State Implementation of the Clean Water Act (TMDL) Requirements AMENDED.

► *Las Vegas NV, March 29, 2003* (2003 Spring Task Force Summit)

The EENRA Task Force heard enlightening presentations from Marlo Lewis regarding the Anti-Energy Litigation of the State Attorneys General and Kristin Leary, of the Chlorine Chemistry Council regarding the latest information on dioxin in the atmosphere. The Task Force reviewed and passed several model bills including a resolution to support the Bush Administration's Healthy Forest Initiative. The Edison Electric Institute provided a program on the Clear Skies Initiative. The Task Force will continue to investigate the Clear Skies Initiative at the annual meeting in Washington, DC this summer. The American Gas Association gave a presentation on the outlook for natural gas based energy development.

► *Washington, DC, December 14, 2002* (2002 States & Nation Policy Summit)

Members of the Task Force voted to adopt three pieces of legislation: the Opportunity to Correct Act, which allows a regulated entity the opportunity to correct violations prior to being penalized or fined; an act Conditioning Regulation of Non-Pollutant Emissions on Science, which requires a state environmental administrator to assess certain criteria prior to formally proposing or implementing regulation of any emission not listed as a "pollutant" under the federal Clean Air Act.

► *Orlando, FL, August 8, 2002* (2002 Annual Meeting)

The task force addressed several pieces of model legislation dealing with issues ranging from air quality to homeland security. The Carbon Dioxide Resolution reiterates ALEC's opposition to mandatory or voluntary carbon dioxide emission standards at the state or federal level. Many experts in the scientific community believe that this type of regulation is without scientific merit and is detrimental to our economy. On the homeland security front, the task force passed the Agricultural Bio Security Act, which focuses on domestic acts of terrorism directed at food or other products intended for human consumption.

► *Las Vegas NV, April 13, 2002* (2002 Spring Task Force Summit)

The full Natural Resources Task Force convened in conjunction with the Task Force Summit, on Saturday, April 13. In addition, thanks to the support of the Nuclear Energy Institute, the Task Force's Energy Subcommittee toured the Yucca Mountain facility on Thursday, April 11. The tour took a close look at the underground storage facility and the crest of Yucca Mountain.

► *Washington, December 15, 2001* (2001 States and Nation Policy Summit)

The Natural Resources Task Force met in conjunction with the 2001 States and Nation Policy Summit, and members reviewed a list of states that are introducing multipollutant emissions standards that include carbon dioxide. Chris Horner of the Competitive Enterprise Institute spoke about related federal activities and the negative impact that passage of this legislation will have on free trade with other nations. Carbon dioxide is not a scientifically proven air quality reducer. The task force is very concerned that this attempt to validate the Kyoto Protocol at the state level will severely limit fuel diversity for energy production in all of the states. The task force listened to a presentation by Susan DeSanti of the Federal Trade Commission, on its latest report about retail competition in electricity.

▸ *New York, NY, August 3, 2001 (2001 Annual Meeting)*

After the Energy Subcommittee's meeting on Thursday, members decided to review potential model legislation as a menu of options for the states to utilize to improve the generation and transmission infrastructure. The full Task Force passed two model bills: The Municipal Sanctions Act and The Uniform Diesel Smoke Testing Act.

▸ *Chicago, IL, April 20-21, 2001 (2001 Spring Task Force Summit)*

The reactivated Energy Subcommittee of the EENRA Task Force met to begin deliberations on a menu of options for the states to improve infrastructure for power generation and distribution. Jerry Taylor of the Cato Institute provided a "Perfect Storm" theory with an update on the California electricity crisis. Chaired by MS Rep. Jim Ellington and Kelly Mader, the subcommittee developed some ideas that will be the focus of the next subcommittee meeting. The full Task Force met and received an update from Lynn Kiesling of Reason Public Policy Institute on the California crisis and Iowa Sen. Sandy Griener on the European epidemic of hoof and mouth disease. Three proposed model bills were placed in subcommittee for review.

▸ *Washington, December 2000*

Following a report from the Agriculture Subcommittee, members discussed and approved a biotechnology resolution and an amendment to The State Regulatory Responsibility Act. Members also heard reports on the current status of natural gas at the national and regional levels in addition to current electricity deregulation and pricing in California. The Task Force also reformed an energy subcommittee, to explore reforms in the nation's energy infrastructure and investigate the actions states can take to ensure the nation's energy needs are met.

▸ *Austin, TX, August, 2000 Regional Dialogue*

Democratizing Environmental Policy: Setting the Agenda

In August, the Natural Resources Task Force and the National Environmental Policy Institute co-sponsored The Democratizing Environmental Policy: Setting the Agenda Regional Dialogue in Austin, Texas. EENRA member, Texas Representative Warren Chisum, hosted the event and was joined by four other Task Force members: Ariz. Representative Jeff Groscost, Ga. Senator Joey Brush, Ms. Senator Jim Ellington, and Mo. Representative David Reynolds. The event gave state legislators and federal regulators the opportunity to discuss pressing environmental problems in states such as Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Arizona. Legislators focused on air and water quality issues, informing regulators that states can more readily address such environmental concerns than can the federal government. Legislators requested the regulators be more innovative in their models for environmental standards.

▸ *ALEC 2000 Annual Meeting*

Task Force members passed four important model bills:

- 1) The Local Jurisdiction Consent for National Monument Designation Resolution
- 2) The State Protection of Air Quality Related Values Act
- 3) The Environmental Good Samaritan Act
- 4) The Resolution to Oppose the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA)

▸ *States and Nations Policy Summit Urban Sprawl Highlights*

Urban Sprawl; Is Smart Growth Really Smart?

The workshop was a panel discussion of business concerns about smart growth policies that limit freedom of choice and raise the cost of living at the local level. Urban sprawl is an amorphous issue that develops when the economy is strong and rapid growth occurs in the absence of planning. Elected officials are called upon to act quickly on a variety of complaints that arise under the urban growth umbrella; traffic congestion, lack of open space, high density housing, lack of adequate infrastructure, overconcentration of commercial properties, farmland loss, and numerous other "nimby" problems. Quick fix land use policies such as urban growth boundaries may increase the cost of housing and restrict small businesses and corporations from entering the local marketplace resulting in lost job opportunities. This workshop was the first of a series of urban sprawl issue development discussions that was designed by the EENRA Task Force to educate and assist state legislators looking for innovative solutions to the problems brought forth by rapid urban growth.

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